

A circular black ink stamp from the Office of Intellectual Property (OIP). The text "OIP" is at the top, "JCT3" is at the top right, "MAR 10 2004" is in the center, and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" is at the bottom. The stamp is partially overlapping the "MAR 10 2004" date stamp.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

March 9, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

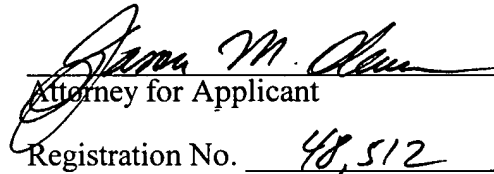
The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English document may be found, inter alia, in the specification where they are cited and/or in the English language abstracts and translations provided therewith. Applicants note that the translations for JP 7-87250 B2 and JP 7-74167 A have been generated by a computer at the Japanese Patent Office website. Further, Applicants note that the translation of JP 7-87250 B2 is based on the earlier (unexamined) publication of this document as JP 5-243273.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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